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SUBJECT: Soviet and Chinese Military Aid to
North Vietnam

Per request, the following table ^{provides unclassified} ~~gives the~~ estimates ^{of the} levels of Communist military assistance to North Vietnam from 1970 through 1974. ~~Although~~ ^{much} current information on North Vietnam is less comprehensive than in the past, particularly on the question of military aid, and the figures ^{are to be regarded as} ~~are to be regarded as~~ a rough order of magnitude.

The estimates of deliveries of equipment and materiel (\$275 million in 1974), as well as the estimate for transportation equipment (\$25 million in 1974), are believed to be fairly good. This is not true, however, for those items listed under the "other military-related support" heading, where the lack of hard data makes the estimates subject to much wider margins of error.

Despite the limitations, several conclusions can be drawn with respect to the levels of military aid for the period 1970-1974.

(a) Total Communist military aid to North Vietnam in 1974 was higher (in current dollars) than in any previous year except 1972.

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ESTIMATED COMMUNIST MILITARY
ASSISTANCE TO NORTH VIETNAM

	Million Current US\$ ^{a/}				
	<u>1970</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>1972</u>	<u>1973</u>	<u>1974^{b/}</u>
MILITARY	<u>205</u>	<u>315</u>	<u>750</u>	<u>330</u>	<u>400</u>
Military Equipment and Material	140	240	565	230	275
Air Defense Equipment	20	85	310	100	55
Ground Forces Equipment	45	80	110	40	45
Ammunition	70	60	130	85	170 ^{c/}
Other	5	15	15	5	5
Military Transportation Equipment (Trucks, helicopters, transports)	20	15	30	35	25
Other Military-related Support ^{d/} (Delivery and packaging costs, Spare parts, POL for the mili- tary, Technical Assistance and Training, Medical Supplies)	45	60	155	65	100

^{a/} Because of rounding, individual figures do not always add to the totals in this table.

^{b/} The data for 1974 are preliminary.

^{c/} Although ammunition supplied to North Vietnam in 1974 constituted an estimated 40 percent of its military aid, our data regarding probable ammunition costs per ton are admittedly "soft." Therefore, if our price estimates are off by, say, 10 percent, the total value for ammunition alone could fluctuate by some US \$17 million.

^{d/} The lack of hard information on the items included under "Other military-related support" makes these estimates subject to a wide margin of error than exists for other categories of military assistance to North Vietnam.

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(b) The suspension of US air bombardment in North Vietnam at the beginning of 1973 brought about a large decrease in assistance for defense against such bombardment or to replace losses caused by it (e.g., air defense equipment, missiles, trucks, etc.).

(c) The US disengagement from combat and the reduction in the level of hostilities in South Vietnam in 1973 were reflected in a substantial decrease in the amount of ammunition and ground force equipment received by North Vietnam, compared with 1972.

(d) In 1974, the delivery of ammunition to Hanoi markedly increased over 1973 and reached a level as high as that of 1972*, although deliveries of ground force equipment continued at relatively low levels.

* The dollar figure shown in the table for ammunition deliveries in 1974 is considerably higher than that for 1972, but tonnages were about the same. Inflation of ammunition prices explains the difference.

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